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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending

31st. December, 1945.



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS;

Medical Officer of Health:

NORMAN MACFADYEN, M.B., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

123, Norton Way, Letchworth.  
(Phone: Letchworth 12).

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Sanitary Inspector:

S. M. JACKSON, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

Town Hall, Royston.  
(Phone: 2257)

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Council Offices:

John Street, Royston.

H. F. J. BANHAM, Clerk to the Council.  
(Phone: 2257)



ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the Year

Ending DECEMBER 31st. 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to submit my Annual Report which covers the period 1st. January to 31st. December, 1945.

As in previous war years, this is a condensed summary of conditions affecting the health of the district and some of the particulars it has been usual to publish are naturally restricted.

My thanks are due to the Sanitary Inspector for his help during the year and in the preparation of this Report.

Section A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	1626
Residential Population (Registrar General's figure)	...	...	...	...	4369
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	1256
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£26,499.
Sum represented by a penny rate					£105.

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Vital Statistics.

Births.

Legitimate - Male, 33; Female, 33;) Total 80.  
 Illegitimate - Male, 10; Female, 4;) Birthrate, 18.3.

Deaths.

Male, 27. Female, 35. Total 62. Death-rate 14.

Still Births.

Legitimate - Male, 2; Female, 2;) Total 5.  
 Illegitimate - Male, 0; Female, 1;) Still-birth-rate 1.14.  
 (per 1000 population)

Infant Mortality.

Legitimate - Male, 1; Female, 0;) Total 2.  
 Illegitimate - Male, 1; Female, 0;) Rate per 1000 births 25.

Infectious Diseases.

The following cases were notified:-

Scarlet Fever	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	55
Catarrhal Jaundice	..	...	3
Infective Jaundice	..	...	2

The principal causes of death were:-

Disease of Circulatory System	...	25
" " Pulmonary System	...	5
Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	...	1
Malignant Growth	...	10
Infantile Diarrhoea	..	1





There were no deaths from maternal causes or the usual infectious diseases.

This year the Vital Statistics are almost as good as can be expected. There is evidence of an ageing population with almost as many births as to produce a stationary population. This should not be quite good enough for Royston. The general health has been well maintained and unprecedented after six years of turmoil, overcrowding and anxiety.

## Section B.

### General Provision of Health Services.

#### 1. Public Health Officials:

##### (a) Medical.

The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer holding a Diploma of Public Health.

##### (b) Sanitary.

The Sanitary Inspector holds a Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as a Sanitary Inspector and also as an Inspector of Meat and Foods.

##### (c) Clerical.

One male clerk.

### Water Supply.

Water from the chalk is supplied to the whole of the district by the Royston Water Company.

The supply is piped and of excellent quality and no shortage has been experienced during the year.

Bacteriological examinations of the raw water were made during the year and also of the water going into supply after treatment. The examinations show the water to be free from pathogenic organisms.

Chemical analysis were also made and show the water to be of a high degree of organic purity, and free from plumbosolvent action.





### Sewerage and Drainage.

No new building work was carried out during the year and no new connections were made to the sewerage system.

### Refuse Removal and Disposal.

The weekly collection of house and trade refuse was maintained in spite of labour difficulties.

The cost of collection and disposal of house refuse was 14/6d. per ton.

The tip at the Sewage Farm is a source of anxiety, due to the difficulty of providing sufficient labour for levelling and covering refuse to keep the area in a sanitary condition. The large accumulation of tins dumped during the war years and which were impossible to dispose of, form an ideal harbourage for rats, and the only remedy is the flattening and spreading of the tins so that the same can be covered over. This is an expense which will have to be faced in the near future.

The rat population on the tip and Sewage Farm is kept within reason by the regular baiting and poisoning carried out under contract with the Council by the staff of the Herts. War Agricultural Executive Committee.

### Salvage.

Waste paper, rags, bones, scrap metal etc. collected during the year amounted to a total weight of 77 tons 7 cwts. which realized a sum of £283.

The cost of collecting, sorting and baling was lower than the preceeding year, due to re-organisation of the method of collecting and handling, but was still slightly in excess of the income derived from the sale of the salvaged materials.

The falling off in the weight of waste paper collected continued during the year. Householders appear to be losing their enthusiasm for salvage though the need for maintaining the saving of waste materials is still very great throughout the country.



### Housing.

Once again no formal action under the Housing acts was taken and the demolition of 6 houses in Clearance Areas is still abeyance. As a result of informal action, urgent repairs to defective roofs, floors, sanitary conveniences, wall plaster, windows etc. were carried out.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

#### Milk.

Three milk producers carry on business in the district, one of which (A.A.Horton, Flint Hall Farm), brought his premises up to the standard for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk, and at the end of the year, was licensed by the County Council for the production of such designated milk.

Regular inspection of the farms and dairies were made and samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and for keeping quality.

#### Meat.

No slaughtering of animals is carried out in the district.

#### Other Foods.

Butchers shops, bakehouses and other food shops were visited periodically and the following foods were examined and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Butter	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.
Figs	10	lbs.
Cheese	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Biscuits	2	lbs.
Wheat Flakes		
etc.	7	pkts.



Tinned Foods:

Mackerel	5	Pilchards	88
Herrings	1	Crawfish	2
Salmon	7	Bleater Paste	24
Soup	7	Marmalade	1
Syrup	1	Beans	45
Peas	8	Milk	92
Meat Roll, Sausage Meat, Steak, Pork Luncheon Meat etc.			31.

Summary of the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Housing Acts and Public Health Acts etc.

The number of inspections carried out during the year are shown in the following summary.

Defects under the Housing Acts ...	...	53.
Defects under the Public Health Acts ...	...	139.
Defects under the Factory & Workshops Acts		8.
Prevention of Infectious Diseases ...	...	7.
Milk & Dairies Orders ...	...	64.
Food Shops & Stores ...	...	96.
Prevention of Nuisances ...	...	239.
House Drainage ...	...	16.
Supervision of Refuse Collection & Disposal		184.
Supervision of Salvage ...	...	146.
Housing Management ...	...	409.
Rats & Mice Destruction ...	...	41.
Unclassified ...	...	322.

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I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

(Signed) NORMAN MACFADYEN.

Medical Officer of Health.

